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**From:** Leopold, Matt (OGC) [Leopold.Matt@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/24/2020 4:47:40 PM  
**To:** Gunasekara, Mandy [gunasekara.Mandy@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]; Fotouhi, David [Fotouhi.David@epa.gov]; Bolen, Brittany [bolen.brittany@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: Just sent  
**Attachments:** EPA Statement\_Pebble Mine\_08-24-20 (002).docx

Hi Mandy,

I appreciate all the edits. See a copy of the press release from the Corps below. In light of that, attached is the final version that I would like to go with. I'd be willing to omit the background portion if everyone thinks that is better. Please call me if you'd like to discuss. I'd ask OPA to release it in response to inquiries after we see what the Corps releases at 1:00 pm.

Matt

**Matthew Z. Leopold**  
General Counsel  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Office: (202) 564-8040  
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and approved:

START

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers finds that the Pebble Mine project, as currently proposed, cannot be issued a permit under section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The Pebble Mine project has the potential to fulfill economic needs for the nation; however, as currently proposed, the project could have substantial environmental impacts within the unique Bristol Bay watershed and lacks adequate compensatory mitigation.

Given these concerns, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers finds under section 404 of the Clean Water Act that the project, as proposed, would likely result in significant degradation of the environment and would likely result in significant adverse effects on the aquatic system or human environment. This finding is based on factual determinations, evaluations, and tests required by subparts (b) and (g), and after consideration of subparts (c) through (f) and (h) of the 404 (b) (1) guidelines. This record is laid out in the Environmental Impact Statement published on July 24, 2020.

END

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We are staffing it now. Additionally, he would like the